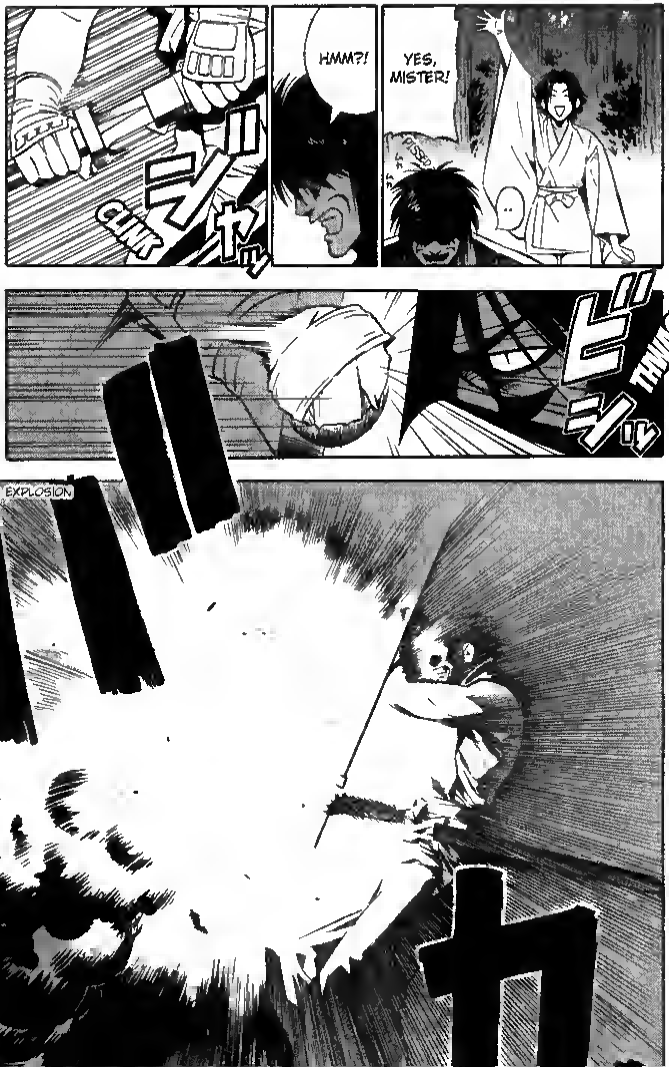
Chapter 4: The Gods descend upon Takachiho

I THOUGHT WE WERE HAVING A TAG TEAM...
...SMASHER, LIKE THIS, THOSE MEN ARE UNBEATABLE
IT'S REPULSIVE...
WE'LL HAVE TO INCREASE OUR MANPOWER...
NOT SINCE BEFORE...
BUT IF HE'S IN THIS STATE...
GABUKO, DID YOU SEE HIM?
BY THE WAY, WHERE IS MIKAGE?
TSUSSS

I'LL HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL...
I HAVE A TENDENCY TO FORGET TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF...
I DOUBT THAT... HE WENT AFTER KAGEKIYO...
MUSASHIBO...
THAT BOY IS STILL-BORN... HE CERTAINLY IS NOT ON THEIR TRAIL...

DO YOU HEAR ME, DARLING!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
AKUBE!
HEY, AKUBE!
BUT ONLY A SINGLE MAN...
YES..
GREAT!
EXCITED
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT WE ARE GOING TO FIND IN TAKACHIHO?
IS THERE A GATHERING OF MEN FROM THE HEIJI CLAN?
THUMP
I'M NOT A WOMAN! MY NAME IS TOMOE!
THEN SHUT UP, TOMOE!
YELL
THREE PEOPLE THEN TO FIGHT AGAINST THE 250000 GENJI MEN?!?
ONLY ONE? THAT MAKES..
GRRR
WILL YOU STOP TALKING, WOMAN!
THAT MAKES 83333 MEN FOR EACH OF US!!


CLINK
HMM?!
YES, MISTER!
THWACK
SFX: EXPLOSION

WOOSH
ARGH!
IENA GA...
UHHH!

AKUBE
LET ME ASK YOU FIRST IF YOU ARE DEAD...
...OR ALIVE?
.....

IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE THIS THING ON YOUR FACE IT WOULD BE EASIER!
HE LOOKS LIKE A MAN FROM THE MASKS CLAN
PFF ..
I'LL LET YOU GUESS
CLANG
WHO'S SHE?
MISS TOMOE ...
?
THE MASKS CLAN?
LOOKS
HMMM.
!
REALLY?
YOSHINAKA'S PROTEGE?!
WHAT ABOUT IT?

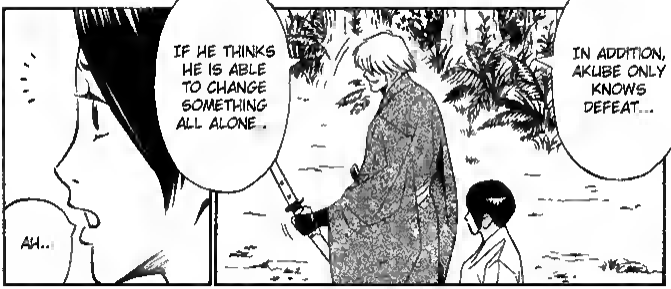
Hmm-
mmmm.
WH-
WHAT IS IT?
SHE'S NOT BAD.
ARE YOU FINISHED NOW OR WHAT?!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BUT...
SFX: FLAKEY
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I HAVE SEEN HAIR IN SUCH A STATE!
SHIN
SHIN
...YOU SHOULD BE MORE CARE-FUL! A WOMAN WHOSE HAIR IS A MESS IS WORTH NOTHING!
HOW IS SHE WORTH NOTHING?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, ERR...
HAVE YOU EVER CROSSED THEIR PATH?
IT'S THE ARMY OF THE IMMORTALS FROM THE GENJI CLAN..
HATTORI IENAGA..
ME? I'M IENAGA...
THEY ARE SOLDIERS WHO CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD..
THEY ARE WEARING A MASK TO HIDE THEIR FACES.
YOU WERE MENTIONING THE MASKS CLAN BEFORE..

occured, Japanese people never heard about [illegible] the way of ninjutsu [illegible] in developping explosives based on saltpetre...

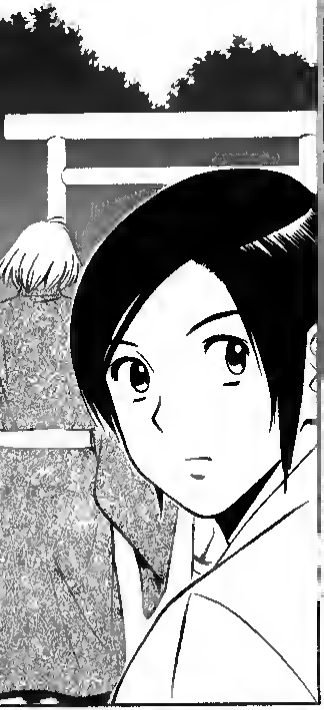
YOU ARE AWFULLY SKILLFUL!
I feel the wind on my neck!
It's the first time I have such short hair!
AH!
I'LL ASK AKUBE'S OPINION!
REALLY?
YES, YES! IT LOOKS VERY VERY NICE ON YOU!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DOES IT SUIT ME?
IT MIGHT BE FASHION IN 800 YEARS

AZAMARU...
THE HATRED, THE CURSE AND THE PAIN.
IT'S THE NAME OF THIS SWORD THE ONLY THING IN THIS WORLD WHICH KNOWS MY TRUE FACE... MY UGLINESS REFLECTED ON THIS BLADE HELPS ME NEVER TO FORGET...
I WAS JUST RECRUITED...
HIS BIRTH IN MIDST THE HEIJI CLAN MARKED HIS FATE...
THIS IS WHAT HAS BECOME OF HIM... HE ONLY EXPERIENCED WAR...
IN THE PAST,
HE WAS SO FIERY.
HMM?

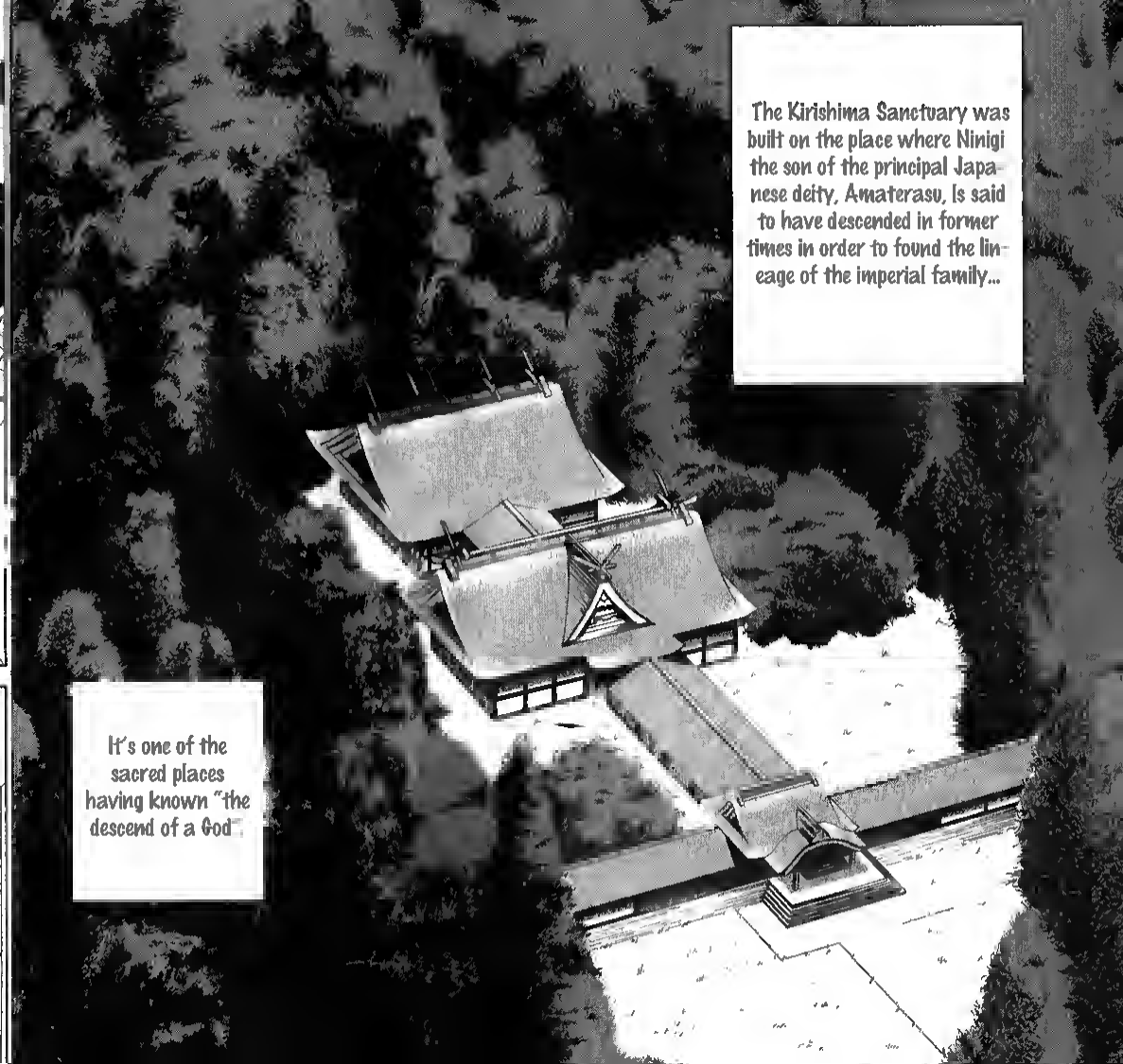

IF HE THINKS HE IS ABLE TO CHANGE SOMETHING ALL ALONE.
IN ADDITION, AKUBE ONLY KNOWS DEFEAT...
AH...

YOU SEE...
HIS QUEST IS ALSO SURELY DOOMED TO FAILURE...

SHALL WE GO MY LITTLE TOMOE?
?
BUT WHERE?
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY, RIGHT?
AKUBEI!
LET'S GO!
ON THE TAKACHI-HO RIDGE!
THE KIRISHIMA SANCTU-ARY IS THERE.



I'M BACK!
HIGH PRIEST!
I BROUGHT SOME GUESTS FOR SLIPPER!
GUEST


The Kirishima Sanctuary was built on the place where Ninigi the son of the principal Japanese deity, Amaterasu, is said to have descended in former times in order to found the lineage of the imperial family...
It's one of the sacred places having known "the descend of a God".

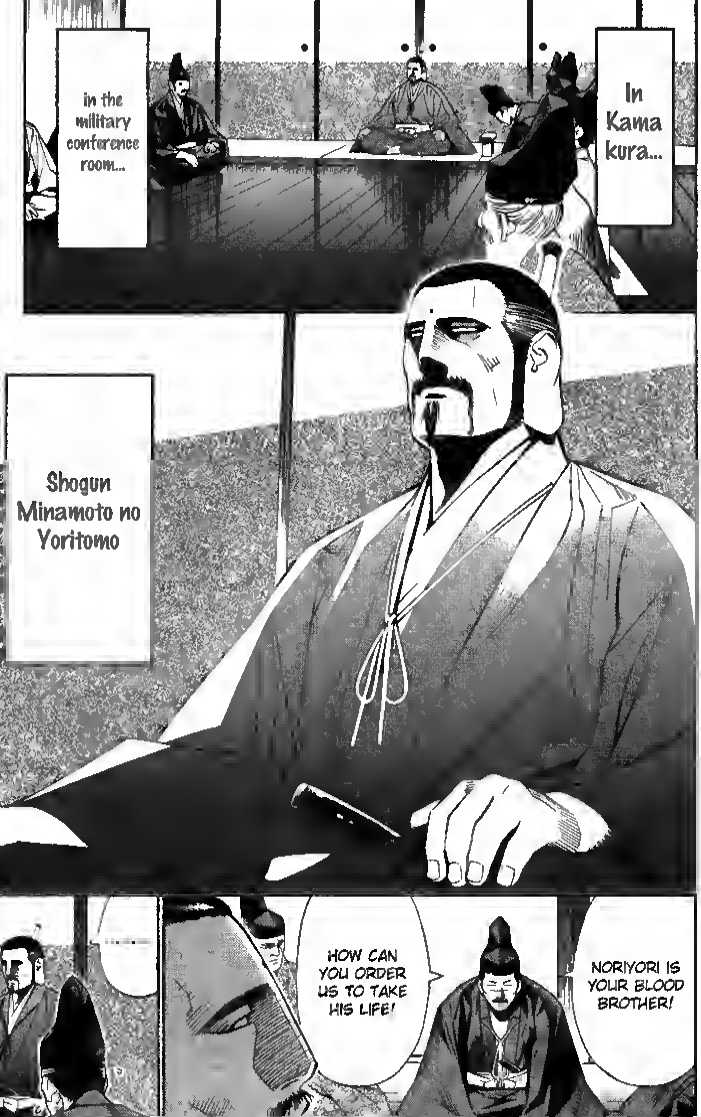
!!!
RISES.
MEAT!
MEAT!
BLOOD!
BLOOD!
CREEPY
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!!!
WE'RE GOING TO DEVOUR YOU!
THROWS

KICK THE BUCKET!!!
SFX GROAN
THUD
BOOM

MEAT!
WE... ATE HUNGRY....
BL- BLOOD!!!!
SMACK
I'M SUFFERING!
THWACK
AAAGHH!
WHAAA!
DIE...

AS MANY TIMES AS NEEDED!
SLASH!
BOOM!
FLAP

FLOMP
CAW!
IF YOU'D LET ME...
I, HATAKEYAMA SHIGETADA, CAN'T AGREE WITH YOUR DECISION.
GIVE YOU MY HUMBLE OPINION.


In Kamakura...
in the military conference room...
Shogun Minamoto no Yoritomo
NORIYORI IS YOUR BLOOD BROTHER!
HOW CAN YOU ORDER US TO TAKE HIS LIFE!

THE HEIJI CLAN WAS EXTERMINATED THERE IS NO ONE LEFT THAT IS ABLE TO SEIZE THE MILITARY POWER IN THIS COUNTRY! EXCEPT MAYBE YOSHITSUNE—
Wada Yoshimori
Adachi Morinaga
EVEN IF YOU FEEL SUSPICIOUS OF YOUR BROTHER, I THINK DEATH IS TOO HARSH A PUNISHMENT!
YOU'LL FOREVER LOSE A BROTHER WHO IS PERHAPS NOT GUILTY!
!!
STARE
SHIGETADA...
THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO BREAK THIS DEADLOCK—
...
Kajiwara Kagetoki
I POINT OUT THAT IT'S ABOUT HIS BROTHER AND SURELY OUR SHOGUN SUFFERS THE MOST FOR HAVING TO MAKE THIS DECISION—

YOU'D BETTER NOT LET HIM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT EVEN FOR ONE MINUTE...
A-ALL RIGHT
SHIGETADA, I ENTRUST THIS TASK TO YOU...
YES, BUT...
THEY'RE REALLY UN-HEALTHY.
...
THEY ARE VERY CLOSE TO THE SHOGUN LATELY..
THE MASKS CLAN...

OH..
HE FOUND THE SWORD KUSANAGI AGAIN...
HE AND TWO OF HIS COMPANIONS ARE BATTLING OUR MEN AT THE ATSUTA SANCTUARY...
KAGEAKI'O HAS REALLY BEEN IN HIS FORGE-SHOP.
THEY HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GOD NINIGI AND TO RECONQUER JAPAN..
SO AKUBE AND KUSANAGI WENT DOWN TO TAKACHIHO...
HMM.

...HAS THE FAVOUR AND THE PROTECTION OF THE GODDESS AMATERASU.
IT LOOKS LIKE AKUBE...
YOU'D ALMOST THINK WE ARE PRESENT AT —E...
..DESCENSION OF A GOD TO EARTH

BANG

AS MUCH AS NEEDED!

SLASH
ATTACK
THAT'S INCREDIBLE
YOU'D THINK THE ENEMIES ARE MONSTERS
WHAT SUPERNATURAL FORCE!
GRAB

AZAMARU

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